Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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R 252133Z JUN 75 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1633

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E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: BBAK, EINV, AR SUBJECT: SWIFT/DELTEC

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4236

- 1. ARANDA CONFIRMED JUNE 24 THAT TO BEST HIS KNOWLEDGE NO DIRECT STATEMENT ON DELTEC MADE BY MINISTER RODRIGO. ON OTHER HAND HE HAD WHAT HE BELIEVED ENCOURAGING NEWS ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR DELTEC CASE. ARANDA AND OTHER DELTEC REP HAD CALLED ON MINJUSTIC BENITEZ ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO AFTER NEW ECONOMIC TEAM HAD TAKEN OVER, AND THERE HAD BEEN INDICATIONS OF SHIFT IN GOA POLICY WITH RESPECT FOTEIGN FIRMS AND INVESTMENT. ALTHOUGH DISCUSSION WITH BENITEZ HAD BEEN IN GENERAL TERMS, DELTEC REPS HAD URGED, AND BENITEZ HAD ACCEPTED IDEA THAT JUDGES NOW TRYING CIVIL AND CRIMINAL SUITS SHOULD BE ASKED TO GO SLOW TO ALLOW SOLUTION TO BE WORKED OUT. AT SAME TIME, BENITEZ TOLD ARANDA HE COULD DO NOTHING CONSTRUCTIVE ON THE CASE UNLESS LOPEZ REGA PERSONALLY APPROVED AN ATTEMPT AT AN EQUITABLE, UNPREJUDICED SETTLEMENT.
- 2. ABOUT JUNE 18, MINISTER BENITEZ RECEIVED ANOTHER DELTEC REP, DAVID BEATTY, WHO IS BASED IN SAO PAULO, BRAZIL AND WHO ARANDA SAYS HAS BEEN RECENTLY REPRESENTING DELTEC HEAD-QUARTERS WITH RESPECT TO THE FIRM'S ARGENTINE PROBLEM. ON THAT OCCASION, ACCORDING TO ARANDA, BEATTY WAS TOLD BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTER THAT THE WAY WAS NOW CLEAR FOR HIM (BENITEZ) TO

TAKE STEPS TOWARD A SOLUTION. (ARANDA IS CERTAIN THAT BENITEZ HAD CONSULTED WITH LOPEZ REGA AND THE LATTER GAVE HIM APPROVAL TO GO AHEAD.) BENITEZ ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH BEATTY OR ARANDA WHEN PROCEDURES HAD BEEN WORKED OUT, BUT GAVE NO SPECIFICS. THE ENTIRE MATTER, INCLUDING THE DELTEC TALKS WITH BENITEZ, WAS VERY SENSITIVE AND THINGS WOULD HAVE TO MOVE SLOWLY. IN ARANDA'S VIEW, NOW THAT BENITEZ HAS AGREED TO TAKE ACTION DELTEC SHOULD LEAVE MATTERS IN HIS HANDS FOR THE TIME BEING.

3. EMBASSY WAS NOT CONTACTED BY BEATTY DURING HIS VISIT HERE AND WE DO NOT KNOW HOW DELTEC HEADQUARTERS ASSESSES THESE CONTACTS WITH BENITEZ ALTHOUGH WE ASSUME THEY HAVE BEEN FULLY INFORMED BY BEATTY (ARANDA WAS NOT PRESENT AT SECOND INTERVIEW WITH BENITEZ).

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